GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3075
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2007
SEPARATE MEDICAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a separate department for Medical Research and Education;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the aims and objectives of the proposed department?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b) Given the complexities of current and future health challenges and opportunities provided by modern biology, no single agency is likely to address these effectively.There is an urgent need for a new Department to steer and coordinate health research activities in the country.To convert the above vision into concrete action, an exclusive Department headed by a Secretary is required only to deal with health research and ICMR will continue to be a Society under the proposed department.

(c) The aims and objectives are to deal and encourage fundamental − the 'blue Sky' research for generation and advancement of knowledge; strategic research − aimed at development of better or new tools (diagnostics, drugs, vaccines, devices etc.); clinical research − testing the new tools developed; and operational research- assessing the efficiency of the tools under field/programme condition, encourage harnessing of new knowledge of gene and gene functions, expand capacity for structural biology in the health sector, particularly making the health sector utilize fruits of the research; promote clinical research and speedy translation of research results into products.